# WPF Best Practices

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* Basic Layout
  + Use the text editor when editing .xaml, not the drag/drop designer
  + Set editor as "Source Code (Text) Editor" to get Intellisense
  + Avoid setting explicit size and position for child elements
  + Name elements using x:Key attribute to better enable both auto testing and debugging
* Layout Using Grid
  + Avoid using Fixed row and column sizes
  + XAML - one property per line
  + Attached properties (e.g. Grid.Row) come first
  + Set ShowGridLines to True only for debugging purposes
* Data Binding
  + Property setter for bindable properties in ViewModel must invoke PropertyChanged event
* Binding to List
  + Bind any properties that need to be dynamic, or whose values can be shared
  + Think of binding to collections, rather than populating a control via code
* Commands
  + Use commands, rather than adding code-behind in View
* Resources and Styles
  + Use styles whenever you'll set the same properties in more than one place
  + Define styles in separate file, within ResourceDictionary
* Control Survey
  + For each control you use, define default style -- easier to later set global property values
  + For each control you use, consider which properties you'd likely bind to ViewModel
* Control Templates
  + Override a control template if you need deeper modifications to a control